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THE ORGANIZED FARMER

February, 1957

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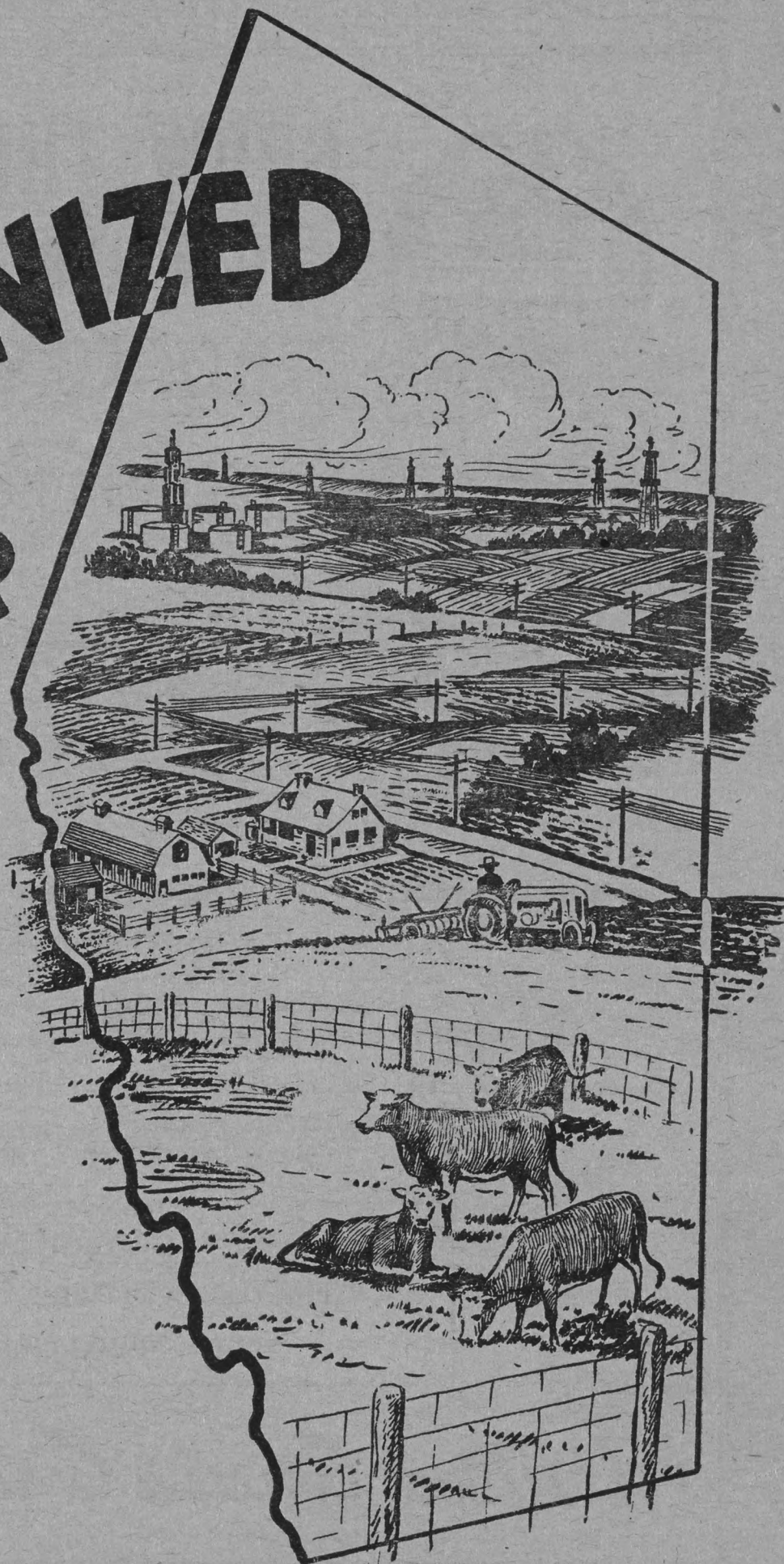
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GENERAL SCIENCES



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President's Report

At the time of my last report I was attending the Western Agricultural Conference. This was immediately followed by the Annual Meeting of the C.F.A. At this meeting many things of great interest to our members were discussed. A great many resolutions dealing with farm problems of all kinds, and from all parts of Canada, were presented. For example — the British Columbia vegetable growers complained of unfair competition from the United States growers; the Ontario dairy people talked of competition from New Zealand; and the West talked about wheat and freight rates. The job of handling all these diverse problems, and arriving at suggested solutions satisfactory to all is an enormous one.

While problems peculiar to different types of farms and localities took a considerable portion of the meeting time, it was the problems common to all that received the greatest attention and the most spirited debate. These were marketing, farm credit and price support.

The meeting was, as far as I could tell, unanimous in support of producer marketing boards. Some provinces have developed this

type of marketing for many of their products and, by and large, their experience has been good. They are most anxious to go forward and develop national boards and are getting a bit impatient with the slow progress some provinces are making. Ontario has many marketing boards in operation, but Alberta has none. Since it seems likely that we will soon have an egg marketing board in almost all provinces plans were made to establish a national board as soon as possible.

There was similar agreement on the need for suitable credit for farm needs. Here, again, the situation differs from province to province, with Quebec having perhaps the best system. This is a field where federal government action is going to be necessary. Those provinces that need credit schemes most are the ones that are least able to finance them.

When it comes to a price support program there was lack of agreement. There was agreement that the present situation is unsatisfactory and that farming was in serious trouble, despite the present government's program. Some argued that the present C.F.A. policy was not any better than what the government was now doing. This was disputed by others

who showed that the C.F.A. policy had never been put into effect by the government, except on a very few products and, in the case of butter at least it had been reasonably satisfactory. The idea of price supports at a parity level maintained by deficiency payments was highly controversial. There was no agreement with the desirability of such a scheme but there was as to what the effects would be. Those opposed argued that, by and large, high prices do not manageable surpluses that would cause the government to — either go out of price support entirely or impose rigid production controls on every farm. Those who favored the scheme, which included the Alberta representatives, argued that, by and large, high prices do not necessarily result in greater production. In fact the opposite effects can often be observed. Increased production, it was argued, is primarily due to favorable weather and technological development in agriculture. The problem of surpluses, which is very real, is related to but not the same as the problem of price supports. Since agreement could not be reached the problem was sent to the committee for further study. It will be difficult to obtain agreement on this most important problem, but I am sure that eventually it will be reached and I hope it will be soon.

I was pleased to note at the Western Stock Growers' Convention the large number of FUA people taking a leading part in many discussions. Many of the problems dealt with concerned animal diseases and their resolutions asked for further research so that more practical control measures could be devised. A considerable amount of time was spent in discussing hunting and hunters. These ranch people have a real problem on their grazing leases. Hunters can go on the leases at will and, in the fall of the year, the fire hazard is very great.

At the convention of the Alberta Co-operative Union I was pleased to have the opportunity to be their guest speaker. I attempted to give them my views as to the fundamental economic changes that had taken place in Canada since the war and how this had resulted in a depressed agriculture in the midst of unprecedented industrial prosperity. The FUA program for meeting this problem is outlined.

I was also able to attend a part of the annual meeting of the A.C.W.A. and bring greetings on behalf of the Farmers' Union. Again, I noticed many prominent FUA people taking a leading part in discussions.

At Camrose I was privileged to attend, on your behalf, a very enjoyable dinner at which the Agricultural Society and the Board of Trade

honored Camrose district farmers who had won honors at the Royal Winter Fair. It gives a good feeling to see our farm people get recognition in their own district for their contribution to a better agriculture.

An executive meeting of the I.F.U.C. was held at Saskatoon. Unfortunately our new President, Mr. Patterson, was unable to attend. Final plans were made for the presentation to be made to the federal government and other matters of urgent concern were discussed.

These, and other activities, have kept me away from the office a great deal. This has thrown an extra load on the office staff. I am particularly grateful to Mrs. Molen and Mr. Logan, who have done a great many things for me that I was unable to attend to myself.

In attempting to carry out your action program your executive, your board and myself have been devoting almost all our time to putting out the program before as many people as possible. Our efforts in the federal field this year are much greater than we have ever attempted before. At this time it appears that the results will be well worth while. This work has been done, however, at the expense of local work in Alberta. We have not been able to give locals and district officials the help that we would have liked to give. I hope you will understand that each of you will redouble your efforts to keep the membership up and the locals strong. A large membership and strong locals are essential. No effort on our part will yield lasting results without such backing.

A word about the membership situation. We have budgeted for an increased membership this year. Money is needed to carry out the plans for this year's work. These plans are two-fold. First, to become more effective in the federal field and, second, to provide greater service to our locals and our members. I am determined that these plans should be carried out in full. May I therefore appeal to each individual to make it their personal business to see that we do have a substantial increase in membership. Make it your business to find out just what your local has done and volunteer your help to finish the job.

One of the outstanding events since I have been your president was the FUA Rally at Sylvan Lake. An account of this rally is given in another section of this issue. The very large crowd, the excellent program of local talent, the neighborliness of the people, and the smooth and efficient manner in which the whole project was carried out was an inspiration as to what can be done with local meetings and rallies. The people concerned are to be most heartily congratulated on the job they did.

Across The Secretary's Desk



By Mrs. Pansy Molen

Price of Commodities and services Used by Farmers

Prices paid by farmers for commodities and services used in production and for living costs in 1956 were slightly more than two per cent above those of a year earlier. High prices were recorded for all items except feed and fertilizer.

Junior Debates

The Junior F.U.A. Board have made plans for a debating competition among Junior members in FUA, FWUA and Junior Locals again this year. This competition is open to all Junior members between the ages of 14 and 27. Let us see as many locals with juniors members as possible enter this debating competition. The provincial finals will be held at Farm Young People's Week in June. The expenses of teams coming to Edmonton will be borne by the Jr. F.U.A. Deadline for entries is March 15th.

Junior Delegates to Ontario

This year the Junior F.U.A. is sending two delegates to the annual conference of the Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario March 15, 16 and 17. The two delegates chosen to go are Walter Scheidt, Junior President of Didsbury; and Aubrey Marler, 2nd vice-president of Bremner. They will be taken on a week's tour following the conference.

Farm Accounting Service

As most of you already know we now have a farm accounting department at central office, headed by Mr. E. B. McKitrick. We urge farmers to write to come to see Mr. McKitrick about their income tax problems, and having their returns filled out. We are certain that you will be very satisfied with his work.

FILE INSERTS

File inserts for receipts (blue) and expenditures (yellow) sold along with the F.U.A. Farm Record-Book are **not** to be used in the book but placed in two files for filing: 1. records of receipts and (2) bills.

DROUGHT IN URUGUAY

The Canadian Commercial Counsellor in Montevideo reports that Uruguay has been suffering from a severe drought which has had a very severe effect on agriculture in general. The early summer fruit crops, such as peaches and plums have failed, and such vegetables as reach the markets are of very poor quality and very high priced.

The spring potatoes, although planted with some apprehension owing to excessive rains, have now been completely dried up and any offered for sale are of extremely poor quality and undersized.

Cattle water-holes are drying up, and if abundant rains are delayed much longer the effect on livestock will be most serious.

The wheat harvest is showing a very severe decline in some zones and it is feared that the previously estimated surplus of about 700,000 tons (25 million bu.) will now be considerably less.

—Spot News From Abroad

Men Bake Cakes



At a recent monthly meeting of the Parkside FUA local #794, the entertainment committee asked the men to bake the cakes for the sale to help raise funds. Eleven of the men did so, and this resulted in a profitable and enjoyable evening. In the picture above are the prize winners—from left to right: Hilmer Hoiland, third prize winner; Mrs. Bob Leadlay, judge; Gordon Homan, second prize winner; Mr. Bob Leadlay, judge; and Stanley Pederson, first prize winner. We think this is a very good sort of entertainment for other locals to try.

On the Ottawa Front

By Henry Young

Having had the honor of spending the first two weeks at the national capital on F.U.A. "Operation Ottawa", I should probably report on the work, and my impressions of the situation there.

My duties in Ottawa were twofold; first to arrange appointments for an Interprovincial delegation to meet the Federal Cabinet and separately all the political party groups. Secondly to get acquainted with as many members of parliament and other influential men as possible and discuss the agricultural situation with them.

The first part of the job took up considerable time, as there were some complications involved. The negotiations dragged on over the better part of my two weeks on duty, but all arrangements were finally made for February 19th and 20th.

Making contacts with members of parliament is a job which involves a lot of time. But, to anyone who likes people it can be quite a rewarding job, as you meet some splendid people and get a wealth of information about conditions in other parts of Canada. It was my policy to meet the leading members of all parties, and also as many as possible of those representing rural areas in the East. In this way we got a chance to compare notes with members from all other Provinces except Newfoundland.

On Monday of the second week, Andy Wood arrived, and we worked together for five days before I left for Alberta. During my stay in Ottawa, I interviewed either alone or with Mr. Wood, some 60 members of parliament, 7 cabinet ministers, 2 deputy minister, the leaders of all political groups and 6 or 7 senators. We also spent one afternoon at the headquarters of the Canadian Labor Congress. Unfortunately President Jodoin was away but we discussed farmer-labor relations with vice-president Gordon Cushing. We also sat in the gallery during some of the debates in the House, but did not have time for a great deal of this, however we heard much of what went on from day to day.

Certainly we have no cause to complain on our reception in Ottawa. Almost without exception, members welcomed us cordially and appeared glad to discuss matters with us. More than one expressed the opinion that it would do lasting good for eastern members to meet representatives of the western farmers right from the grass roots level. It is a new approach, as the older farm organizations have always dealt

with government and ignored the private member.

From our discussions it is evident that eastern agriculture has its problems too. Of course their particular problems are different to ours, but the general principle of "Parity for Agriculture" would apply to them also. This is the common ground on which we can get together with most eastern agriculturists. However in the Maritime Provinces, agriculture appears to be in such straits that a major operation may be necessary.

Now, before I conclude, I want to give you some of my own impressions of the Ottawa scene. First of all it is very obvious that an election is imminent. All the manoeuvring in the House of Commons is being carried on with the election in mind. Actually not much business is being done and the government does not seem to care whether parliament completes its work or not. Many members of the House are absent attending political conventions or mending political fences. It is not uncommon to see the House in session with perhaps 3 or 4 cabinet members and 30 or 40 government M.P's out of their 170 odd supporters present. This of course, is nothing new, but it is perhaps worse than usual right now.

Another thing which always jars me is the lack of order in the House of Commons. Actually the way in which debates are carried on there, would disgrace any backwoods convention. This also is not anything new, as I observed it many years ago when I first saw the House in session.

I feel that this rather deplorable state of affairs arises from the frustration caused by a faulty political system which exalts the cabinet, and degrades the private member. However that is too long a story to discuss here. Perhaps I may be able to write a further article on it, for its importance.

Actually the hottest issue in Ottawa was the Indian Act. The threatened expulsion of Hobbema Indians had brought a wave of protest from every source, and every member of parliament had his share. In spite of this, the Government refused to change the Act, evidently hoping that a decision of the Court in favor of the Indians would take them (the cabinet) off the hook. If this does not happen, my impression is that the Government's troubles on this score have only begun.

In conclusion I would like to thank all those M.P's who helped us in our work at Ottawa. In particular Messrs John Decore and Dick Hanna of Edmonton, who let us use their office as our headquarters. Mr. Smith, M.P. for Battle River-Camrose also was most helpful, and many others of all parties did their best for us.

"Know Your Directors"



FRANK JOHNSON

Frank Johnson, F.U.A. Director for District 10 since 1954 recently resigned because of pressure of other business. He has spent all his life in the Red Deer district where he farms 640 acres and raises pure bred cattle.

Besides his activities in the F.U.A., he is director of the Lacombe Feeders, Red Deer Fair Board; vice-president of the Central Alberta Shorthorn Breeders Club and president of the Red Deer Purebred Beef Club.

He is married to Eva Braithwaite and has four children, three attending public school at Sylvan Lake.

The U.S. Livestock and Meat Situation

The USDA reports that hog slaughter is decreasing while cattle slaughter stays near a record high, after a year or more when both were exceptionally large. Hog prices are improving while cattle prices remain closer to those of a year ago. By the end of 1956, hog slaughter was substantially less than the previous year. It will continue smaller this winter than last, because fewer late pigs last spring reduced the year-end inventory of hogs nearing slaughter weight.

Cattle slaughter has been extremely large because many cattle were put on feed early and marketed rapidly after only moderate feeding; because the rate of marketing for young cattle has been speeded, in contrast with



MRS. W. L. BARKER

Mrs. W. L. Barker, F.W.U.A. director for District 10, took over this position, at the last annual convention, when Mrs. C. R. Braithwaite was elected to the FWUA executive.

Mrs. Barker has lived in the Calgary district for the past forty-four years, and has been a member of the farm organization for forty-three years. She has one daughter and three sons, all of whom are married. Two sons are farming and the other is sales manager for radio station CKXL in Calgary. Her daughter and son-in-law also farm.

Besides her interest in the FUA, Mrs. Barker has always been active in community work, having been organist in the village church and president of the United Church Ladies Aid for four years.

She has held offices in her local and is past 2nd vice-president of the FWUA. She is a district sub-director now, besides being FWUA director.

delayed marketing last winter; and because lack of feed has forced larger marketings from drought areas. Prices of lambs are likely to rise seasonally, and may remain for a time a little higher than last year. Total 1957 meat production is expected to be less than the 1956 record.

—Spot News From Abroad

Alberta Livestock Co-operative Limited

Dear Friends:

This month we'd like to copy for your preusal an article that we read in the Winnipeg Free Press, which we think will be of interest to you, entitled "What makes a farm leader". It reads as follows:

The annual meeting of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, recently held in Winnipeg, was of unusual importance for at least two reasons. In the first place, farm leaders from across Canada attempted to make a realistic assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of their industry. In the second place, it provided an answer to those who say that the CFA is out of touch with farmers.

The second point deserves particular emphasis. The charge is frequently made that, because membership in the CFA is indirect, there is no spokesman for the man actually on the land. Presidents of farm organizations and commercial co-operatives influence decisions; these men have left their farms and their personal contact with farming and farm problems is reduced.

The recent meeting made nonsense of this criticism. Not only was the discussion very much to the point, but men who are engaged full time in farming were present and vocal at the meeting. The leaders of commercial co-operatives and farm organizations worked amicably toward identical objectives.

The criticism, in any case, ignores an important fact. The men who have been moved off farms into executive office in co-operatives were moved by the vote of farmer-members. Presumably the confidence of farmers was extended to them because of their grasp of farm needs and their ability to lead. If the farmers are now to insist that these people should not be vocal it can only mean that the best leaders will be regularly promoted out of the sphere of policy questions, and the strength of leadership will decline. The farm movement will muzzle many of its able spokesmen.

* * *

This applies particularly, of course, to leaders in the commercial co-operatives. Since being elevated to executive office these men have increased the value of their counsel, rather than depreciated it. Initially elevated because their qualities appealed to their fellow-farmers in subsequent years they add to these qualities a detailed knowledge of the off-farm marketing and processing of the farm products in which their co-operative deals.

Disinterested, able and vigorous leadership is one of the scarcest commodities in any social community. It is as rare in the farm community as in any other. Those who have the interests of agriculture at heart—whether they are farmers, ex-farmers or city resident who understand farm problems—deserve to be heard.

Perhaps this fact was most clearly demonstrated by Dr. J. J. Deutsch, head of the economics department of the University of British Columbia, in his speech to the CFA.

Now, his farm background notwithstanding, Dr. Deutsch is not a farmer. But the qualities of mind and experience that he was able to bring to bear on the needs of the farm community influenced the thinking of most who heard him. Dr. Deutsch was able to fit the needs of the farm community into the economic fabric of the nation. He provided an array of facts that cannot be ignored in considering present and future farm policies.

The contribution of Dr. Deutsch is similar in essence to that of agricultural scientists at a university. They do not participate directly in farming, but the results of their work can greatly influence the standards of living of the men who do participate.

The same is true, to a greater extent, of the farmers who leave the farm to participate full-time in the administration of farm organizations or co-operatives. The names of such leaders as Henry Wise Wood, E. A. Partridge and A. J. McPhail, to mention only a very few, are almost household words on the prairies—and they are remembered for off-farm services to on-farm neighbors. There is no reason to believe that the ability or conscience of present day leaders is basically inferior.

* * *

Obviously not all leaders of commercial co-operatives are true to their roots on the farm. There have been examples of the executives of co-operatives finding the commercial rewards too much to their liking. But farmers are still the court of last resort—they can retire an ineffective leader by the simple expedient of voting him out at the annual meeting of the co-operative or farm organization.

This invalidates the frequent claim leaders of co-operatives do not speak for farmers. In most co-operatives, district meetings name farmers to attend an annual meeting which in turn names directors to conduct the co-operative's affairs. And if the farmers wish to change their directors no one can prevent them from doing so.

Farmers particularly on the prairies, require spokesmen and advocates. It has frequently been noted in these columns that the farm section of the Canadian community is relatively depressed. Policies are needed that will improve the economic position of farmers. Who designs these policies—whether it is a British Columbia professor of economics, the executive of a commercial co-operative, the director of a farm organization, a political leader, or a farmer who never has participated in organizations—is simply not the point. Policies must take precedence over personalities.

The CFA demonstrated a clear understanding of this important fact. The result was that it made use at its annual meeting of able minds from farm, co-operative, governmental and academic spheres.

Sincerely, Yours, GEO. WINKELAAR, General Manager

(Advertisement)

A DEBATE

by Col. E. W. Cormack

(Some pointers on preparation, staging, presenting, and judging)

Debates between individuals, groups and nations have been going on for a long time. When the pre-historic cave man used a club to persuade his reluctant bride to come home with him to his lair, he was merely clinching the argument in a reasonable manner—for him. The writer was born on the Scottish borders, a district known as the debatable land — a debate which lasted five hundred years where generations of warriors tried to solve the question of allegiance to Scotland or England. Today we regularly hear of the arguments being presented by one nation or the other at the United Nations Assembly, the centre described rather cynically as “just another mammoth debating society.”

Democracy, which in essence means the rule of the people by themselves and with freedom to express individual opinions, functions best when the people are well informed and prepared to listen to reason. The formal type debate we have today has developed over the years with the foregoing in mind. When any question arises in the minds of a group or society as a whole, a debate serves to set the facts and arguments before an audience, so that those present may become better informed and arrive at intelligent conclusions. When you only hear one side of any matter, you may be temporarily convinced, but there is generally the uneasy feeling that there must be another side to the question. One wonders why the speaker or writer is afraid to let this other side be presented. Our FUA locals are on the alert to liven up their programmes, and to appeal to the intelligence and critical judgment of their members. Let us therefore consider how vigorous worthwhile debate might be included from time to time.

Debates of any value don't just happen. Some folk have to work. A debate in the early stages involves searching around for facts, statistics, case histories, opinions expressed by recognized authorities. Let us consider the subject chosen by the FUA Juniors for their forthcoming inter-district debates — “Resolved that a farm does offer as good opportunities to young people as does business or industry.”

What facts should each side be digging out? There are two on the affirmative and two opposing that are on the negative side of that

resolution. Each team is from a different local or district, and each team requires help and advice. Well, everyone concerned has to do a bit of reading. Farm journals, financial periodicals, daily papers, all have to be scanned. The help of friends is needed, all alert to winnow the wheat from the chaff.

Obviously no one person can be expected to assemble facts and opinions. The job is a team one, and calls for organization. The coach and two speakers on one side or the other have to get together from time to time, sort out and arrange their arguments and decide who is to present them. Then there is the matter of rebuttal, because each side has an opportunity to do this and debates are often won or lost on the effectiveness of rebuttal. I shall never forget taking part in the Inter-University debate for the McConn Cup. Our coach saw to it that we listed all the probable points of argument which might be used by our opposition, and how each of these should best be met and challenged.

Any speech requires a good ending. Each speaker should briefly enunciate the points he has brought out, and conclude with a convincing final sentence, to leave no doubt in the minds of his audience that his viewpoint is the only possible one for intelligent people like them.

The rules for the FUA Juniors' Debating Competition call for speeches up to ten minutes each in the order affirmative, negative, affirmative, negative. Then each side may choose one speaker to handle a three minute rebuttal in the order negative, affirmative.

Three Judges are selected to mark the debate on a scale of points. They work independently, coming together at the end to pool their marks and declare a winner. Generally one judge acts as spokesman for his colleagues, touching on constructive suggestions and comments, and declaring a winner. In the score sheet half the marks are awarded for presentation, which includes voice, diction, gestures and posture in that order of importance. Argument comes next, and points to be noted by the judge include such matters as logical structure, choice of arguments and recognized authorities and examples quoted. Rebuttal is next considered, and this means that debators must tackle the arguments of their opposition. Finally there must be that elusive but nevertheless clinching quality known as Effectiveness. The judges and audience have to be convinced that the best possible case has been presented. Our Farmers' Union can only continue to be effective if we know our facts, our case and can communicate our ideas.

The Organized Farmer

Editor A. W. PLATT

Members 50c a year

Non-members \$1.00 a year

Authorized Second Class Mail,
Post Office Department, Ottawa.

Published monthly by
FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Printed by Co-op Press, Edmonton.

Vol. XVI

February, 1957

No. 2

EDITORIALS

Did We Do Our Part

The preliminary report of the Gordon Commission has been issued. The final report and the supporting documents will not be available for some time. Final decision as to how worthwhile the document will be will have to be reserved until all the information is before us.

Meantime, many editorials have been written and many of them have been very critical of the report. The Minister of Trade and Commerce has indicated that most of the recommendations will receive little sympathy from him.

The section in agriculture is of particular importance to us. Much of the information given is valuable and, presumably, when the supporting data are issued we will have more useful information. Some of the recommendations appear good, others warrant further study, and others — it is difficult to agree with. What disappointed most of us was that there was no overall plan to meet fundamental problems of agriculture that the commission recognized.

When one goes back and examines the submissions that were made to the commission one

finds exactly the same thing. The submissions from farm organizations were, for the most part, conservative, lacked imagination and failed to suggest any radical approach to farm problems. We had a right to expect the commission to examine our proposals, to determine their practicability and to assess the effect of their implementation on the rest of the economy. We had no right to expect them to do our thinking for us.

If farm organizations, including the Farmers' Union of Alberta, are to do a worthwhile job they must have ideas. These must be developed into programs that change with changing conditions and, as far as possible, must anticipate problems that will arise. They must at all times do everything possible to present the program to everyone whose support would be helpful.

Our International Friends

The United States is a recognized leader of the Western World. For that reason their foreign policy is of the utmost importance to all of us who are a part of the western block of nations. It has been said that, in today's world, the struggle is for men's minds. While progress has been made by western nations it has not been as great as might be expected in this struggle, considering that we offer individual freedom, democracy and a high material standard of living.

The support of Chiang Kai-Shek as leader of China's millions succeeded in alienating from us a great nation, of highly intelligent people. The support of Sigmund Rhee divided the people of that country into two parts and plunged them into bloody conflict that settled nothing.

Now, in a new trouble spot we are accepting as the natural leader Ibn Saud, of Arabia. Do we really think we will capture the minds of the Arab peoples with such tactics? We who have so much to offer that these people want — the dignity and freedom of the individual, the right to decide by whom and how he shall be governed — offer instead support of their most reactionary leader, and charity under the guise of economic aid.

When are we going to put moral principles above political expediency.

WHEAT SELLING

A three-pronged wheat selling policy was outlined to the annual meeting of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture on January 9, by Herbert Hughes of Nebraska, president of the National Association of Wheat Growers of the United States. Mr. Hughes called for:

1. More U.S. and Canada co-operation in the designs of solutions to problems which extend across national and continental boundary lines.

2. More participation by well-informed wheat growers in drafting policy for wheat, including production, pricing in domestic markets and the movements of wheat in world trade channels.

3. A 'practical' wheat pricing policy for the United States which would include 'a reduction in crop land devoted to wheat, a realistic domestic pricing system, eventual elimination of subsidy for that portion of the crop exported, and utilization of wheat for new domestic uses.'

Both Canadian and American wheat growers, Mr. Hughes said, are concerned over efforts of wheat-importing countries to increase their own wheat production.

—Wheat Pool Budget

FARMERS UNION BUS-TRIPPERS COMING TO TOWN

"Not the biggest but the best" of all lobbying groups will start descending on Washington next week when the first caravan of FU Bus-Trippers converges on Washington.

Buses from three states—North Dakota, Minnesota and South Dakota—arrive here on January 6. A fresh crop of Bus-Trippers will arrive every week from then on until the end of February.

It looks now that a total of 40 FU buses carrying about 2,000 FU members from 12 states will pull up and unload in front of the Senate Office Building and other key points in the nation's capital.

Here are the states taking part:

North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, Rocky Mountain, Montana, Texas, Illinois, Indiana, Arkansas, Wisconsin and Oklahoma. Other states have not yet completed caravan plans.

Once again FU members will carry their own recommendations directly to Senators and Congressmen. And once again Washington will witness something it should see more often: Honest-to-John dirt farmers taking a hand in their own nation's affairs in the best democratic traditions.

—National Farmers Union's Washington Newsletter

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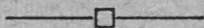
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VETERANS ON THE LAND



C. J. Versuys

The people who are trying to convince we farmers how much better off we now are than a year ago make no mention of the continually rising costs of production we are being faced with, and have no compensating increase in returns.

However there appears to be a few streaks of light showing through the cloud of despondency that has been hanging over our industry. Grain quotas are somewhat more generous than a year ago, though for some reasons not adequately explained there are still points in a very bad position. This matter is being actively investigated and we are hoping for a more equitable distribution of grain quotas than was enjoyed in 1956.

The greater diversification of crops seeded in 1956 has tended to boost farm income in the major grain producing areas of the West. Much consideration is being given to the growing of commercial mustard in areas suited to the growing of that crop. The Japanese market has been a very welcome outlet for both brown and oriental mustard, though the yellow mustard has not been so readily disposed of. Some farmers have done quite well on their rape seed contracts. While we farmers are very reluctant to greatly change our operation the need is there and the challenge has to be met. Other industries are also constantly being faced with the demands for new methods of production, new products and new markets, so in this we are not alone.

Those farmers who supplement their income by milking a few cows are enjoying a fairly stable market for their produce. The hog market at present is showing considerable strength which we hope it will hold, at least until the spring crop of pigs come onto the fall market. It is too early at this point to forecast on the various possibilities of next fall's hog prices.

In spite of the fact that we have some 20 per cent more cattle on feed here than at any time previous, we in Canada are still enjoying a stable beef cattle market. Some classes of cattle are selling at a higher price than one year ago. That a large percentage of our beef is being finished here in the west is all to the good, in view of the almost unlimited supply

of cheap feed available. We are at least effecting a saving in box car shipping space by using our feed grains here rather than shipping them to the east.

The egg producer is at present in a position of receiving low returns in a season of high production costs, which will no doubt lead to a much closer scrutiny of producer marketing boards for this product.

The writer feels that although agriculture is not receiving a proportionate share of the national income, that we must be of stout heart and mind while trying to solve the many problems we are being faced with.

Our farm unions are showing strength and determination in presenting our cause and we as individuals must rally to their supports.

On a slightly different note may we draw to your attention the number of farm water wells being affected by seismographic exploration. It is suggested that anyone having a good well send a sample of water to the Provincial Analyst, University of Alberta, and that a copy of the water analysis be kept on the farmer's file. Then in the event of a dispute between a farmer and a seismographic operator over damages to a well, one has established the quality of the water in the well at time the analysis was taken.

Those of us who have not yet started our 1957 accounts are well advised to consider purchasing from central office one of the Farm Records Books designed by Mrs. W. C. Taylor and Mr. Chas. Seeley. This is the only prepared farm record book the writer has been able to employ to advantage in facilitating the completion of Income Tax Returns.

Australian Wheat Growing Costs Double In Eight Years

The Canadian Commercial Secretary in Melbourne reports that the home consumption price of wheat in Australia has been increased by 4d. a bushel to 13/8d., as a result of an increase in the cost of production. This is more than double the figure for 1948-49. The "official" costs of production of wheat as determined for previous seasons were as follows: (L1=\$2.15).

1955-56	13s. 4d.	1.43	-----
1954-55	12s. 7d.	1.35	-----
1953-54	12s. 7d.	1.35	-----
1952-53	11s.11d.	1.28	-----
1951-52	10s.0 d.	1.08	-----
1950-51	7s.10d.	.84	-----
1949-50	7s. 1d.	.76	-----
1948-49	6s. 8d.	.72	-----/2.

—Spot News From Abroad

F.W.U.A. Presentation To Provincial Cabinet

JANUARY 28, 1957

The Farm Women's Union of Alberta presented their resolutions to the Premier and Cabinet Ministers on January 28th, 1957.

Members present at the hearing were the Premier, Hon. E. C. Manning, Hon. R. D. Jorgenson, Minister of Public Welfare; Hon. L. C. Halmrast, Minister of Agriculture; Hon. Dr. W. W. Cross, Minister of Health; Hon. J. Hartley, Minister of Public Works; Hon. A. O. Aalborg, Minister of Education; Hon. G. Taylor, Minister of Highways; Hon. A. R. Patrick, Minister of Economic Affairs and Hon. R. Reiersen, Minister of Industry and Labor.

F.W.U.A. members present were Mrs. C. T. Armstrong, Mrs. Olive Douglass, Mrs. C. R. Braithwaite, Mrs. F. A. Sissons, Mrs. L. Gibeau, Mrs. P. Dowhaniuk and Mrs. F. Hicks.

1. Provincial Health Scheme

Asking for a National Health Plan to include drugs, eye glasses and dental care.

REPLY — Seeing that Ontario has decided to join now it is expected the National Health Plan will be a reality but not likely to include drugs, glasses and dental care now.

2. Mother's Allowances

Asking that the present plan be extended to cover the cases where the husband is sent to jail, is confined to mental hospital, deserts his family, or is incapacitated by disease or accident.

REPLY — Under is sent to jail — no comment.

Is confined to mental hospital — there is an allowance.

Deserts his family — provision is made to care for the family after three years.

Is incapacitated by disease or accident — no comment.

3. Education

Asking that the Provincial Government assume 50% of the cost of elementary and secondary education including the cost of buildings.

REPLY — Mr. Aalborg stated on the average they do pay 50% — varies according to circumstances in different districts, covered by the equalization grant.

4. Mental Health

Expressed our appreciation of our Government for their help in the mental health field and asked that plans for improving conditions be extended to rural communities.

REPLY — Dr. Cross thanked Mrs. Arm-

strong for the confidence expressed and stated they would continue to work to improve conditions in Alberta.

5. Property Laws Affecting Women

Asking for the introduction of Community Property Laws and that the Intestate Succession Act be changed to make provision for children over 21 years of age to apply to a judge for a fair share of an estate that they had helped to build up.

REPLY — Agreed with the ideas expressed.

6. Specifications for Nursing Homes

Asking that these homes have a registered nurse on the permanent staff and arrangements made for the regular visits of a doctor and clergyman.

REPLY — Licenses are granted by the city or municipality. Hard to find nurses enough to be hard to say just how far a government could or should interfere here.

7. Widow's Pension Act

Asking that this act be changed to include single women reaching 60 years.

REPLY — Comments noted also noted that 800 widows are getting the pension at present, over 65 years of age.

8. Cost of Text Books

Asking for a province-wide school book rental plan, including reference books.

REPLY — Department of Education giving consideration to extending the plan.

9. University Tuition Fees

Ask that tuition fees be lowered and universities reimbursed from Federal and Provincial revenue, and more scholarships and bursaries given.

REPLY — Universities do receive considerable help but have such expansive building plans, salaries increased and more staff needed that it does not seem likely tuition fees can be lowered at present.

10. Milk for Schools

Asking that the Federal and Provincial Governments supply milk to school children at a nominal fee.

REPLY — Agreed with the idea.

11. Entrance Fees to Hospitals

Asking that the Government establish a fund to cover emergency cases.

REPLY — Dr. Cross stated that under the present regulations hospitals could collect fees for debts not paid. Guaranteed by the municipality and then the department of welfare refunded 60% to the municipality.

12. Sex Deviates

Asking that sex deviates be kept from society until cured.

REPLY — Very difficult to know whether they were cured or not.

13. Cancer Grant

Appreciate fine services for cancer patients but would like drugs supplied by the Province too.

REPLY — The Government now provides everything for the treatment of cancer but narcotics or sedatives.

14. Curriculum Committee

Asking for a representative on the Curriculum Committee.

REPLY — Will look into this.

15. Library Act

Asking that the Government make an additional grant up to \$200 on dollar for dollar basis for community libraries.

REPLY — Extensive research work done on libraries and copies of the new Act given to the delegation. It is believed the new plan will work out to the best advantage of all and has been proven in various United States and Nova Scotia.

16. Teacher Survey

Asking for a survey to be made and an equitable distribution of qualified teachers in outlying areas.

REPLY — Quite easy to make a survey but another thing to say where teachers shall go to teach.

17. Grants for University Residence Accommodation

Asking that the Government provide grants to make additional residential space.

REPLY — University grants all absorbed for the next 10 years as they require more classroom space and facilities.

18. Increased Grants for Education and Health Services

Asking that a goodly percentage of the revenue from the oil industry be used for larger grants for educational and health services.

REPLY — Pretty well the policy followed.

19. Vocational Guidance

Asking that agricultural leaders be invited to participate in vocational days at school to give reasons for entering farming.

REPLY — 4 out of every 5 do have a representative attend.

20. Scholarship Board

Asking that the Government set up a Scholarship Board for students entering Universities, Agricultural Schools, Business and Technical Schools, etc.

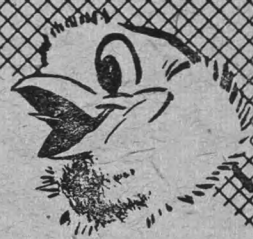
REPLY — After our request last year the Department of Education had discussed this with University Officials and they could not see the need for a scholarship board at present.

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FWUA Section



President's Report

By Mrs. C. T. Armstrong

F.W.U.A. BRIEF —

On January 28th our F.W.U.A. delegation presented a brief to Premier Manning and Cabinet Ministers. A full report of the points presented and the replies we received will be printed in this issue of the Organized Farmer. I would like to say here that we were greatly encouraged in some of the things that we asked for, and in others we realize that they will not happen right away, but we will need our continued work to bring about changes and improvements in legislation. In all fairness I want you to know that our delegation received a courteous reception and hearing, and we had friendly discussions during our meeting. I have received some letters since, following up on some of the subjects discussed, and I have replied, which shows that the Ministers are anxious to follow through on some of the topics we have presented. I am sure that our brief is being looked into and considered, and that is what we hope for and expect as a responsible organization.

Western Agricultural Conference

In the last issue of the Organized Farmer you were given a thumbnail sketch of the Convention of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture. The next step is to take all the resolutions and agricultural matters of B.C., Sask. and Man. to the Western Agricultural Conference. Here is where western opinion is unified, before going on to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. It might be well to point out that all provinces starting with Ontario and further east do the same thing and that is known as the Eastern Agricultural Conference. They too uni-

fy their point of view. Naturally the W.A.C. has matters to discuss which are predominantly prairie problems, but B.C. has many marketing situations that are just as important as ours and whether they be concerned with eggs, fruit, grain or livestock, they are important to the producers and the agricultural picture as a whole. In W.A.C. we have good discussions and find ourselves more closely knit in our approach to getting the matters clearly defined and in proper shape to present our case, not only before our governments but to enlist the support of other interested parties. From our A.F.A. a study of the re-organization of W.A.C. was presented. This was well received and a constructive discussion took place. This has been referred back to all our western provinces and will be on the agenda for further action. I was pleased to present my report on behalf of western women.

Canadian Federation of Agriculture

We now step into the national picture, and the setting is still the same, the Royal Alexandra Hotel in Winnipeg. Some W.A.C. delegates have gone home, but most of them stayed on for the C.F.A. Convention, so we see the same people plus those of the Eastern Conference. Here farm people from B.C. to the Maritimes gather to discuss the problems of agriculture. When we all get down to the fundamental problem we find it is much the same in all provinces, and there isn't too much division. Here we find that sincere people have gathered to do the best they can for those they represent provincially. As in all organizations there are those who want action right now, others who are

anxious to get things done but do want to present facts to strengthen their case in getting it before the Governments and in all cases we are agreed that something needs to be done. The A.F.A. delegates do a good job in the C.F.A. and are making a real contribution. As Western Women's Director on C.F.A. I am happy to do my part for farm people.

We had several new faces on the C.F.A. Board this year, they not only have come to contribute but also to learn that we must co-operate if organized agriculture is going to get what it needs to have a proper economic standing with others. We had real good discussions on Marketing Problems, Support Prices, Deficiency Payments, Methods of getting things done for Canadian farmers, etc. When all is said and done we discuss those things here in Alberta and we go right along with our decisions to the national level, and some reach the international level. Perhaps things are not happening fast enough to suit us, but progress is being made and if I may be bold enough to say so, the western delegates are doing well and the eastern delegates do co-operate in many things which could be difficult for us otherwise. In any national organization these facts must be faced, neither steam roller methods nor wishful thinking are enough when real problems face us. We still have lots to get done and a great deal more will be accomplished by unified effort inside and outside of provinces.

Farm Radio Forum

At the C.F.A. meeting members and friends gathered for the Monday evening program of National Farm Radio Forum. More than 200 people participated in buzz-sessions and discussed the topic "Do you feel that obtaining parity income is the most important problem in agriculture?" It would be well for farm people to take a greater interest in these Monday night radio programs for they deal with topics pertinent to many of the questions that we are interested in getting discussion on and answers to from the farmers.

The present series deal with prices and marketing. We hope that you will be able to form a listening group in your community or failing that, you will make an effort to listen at home. Any information you need or care to contribute should be addressed to Mr. Jas. McFall, Alberta Secretary, Farm Radio Forum, 507 MacLeod Bldg., Edmonton.

Farm Radio Forum can be of help in creating interest in your F.U.A. locals, it's worth trying.

F.W.U.A. Hi-Lights

The ladies of Bon Accord FWUA #612 planned to have the district home economist attend and give a talk on "The Magic of Color in the Home" at their February meeting. Plans for various social events have also been made for the coming month or two. Reports were given on the annual convention, and also the delegation to the government led by Mrs. Armstrong in January.

* * *

Horn Hill FWUA #1011, Red Deer, heard a report by their secretary on the District meeting in Red Deer where plans were outlined for a memorial trophy which will be donated by Mrs. McKay for the summer conference. New information on FWUA affairs was given by Mrs. Braithwaite. The meeting endorsed Mrs. McKay's suggestion that "each local send in an idea to head office as to what they would like to see carried out in the program."

* * *

Berrywater FWUA #1202, Vulcan, as suggested by one of their members, plan a scrapbook of stories from district old-timers. Clippings from early FWUA meetings, etc. Excellent reports on the convention were given by the delegates. Ed Hunters and Mrs. Braithwaite's speeches to the convention, film on arthritis, etc., are to be included in their coming year's program.

* * *

At the January meeting of Shady Nook FWUA #1014, Red Deer, Mrs. C. R. Braithwaite led a discussion on what changes, if any, we would like to see in our FWUA program.

* * *

A letter received by Fairdonian Valley FWUA #802, Sedgewick, from a recipient of a CARE parcel sent to East Berlin was read. Conditions are evidently very bad and they were most grateful for the parcel.

* * *

Big Stone FWUA #1114, Youngstown, heard the report of their delegate on the annual convention and found it exceedingly interesting. The men of the district were on hand to hear the report also.

* * *

A very successful social evening was held by the Sedalia FWUA #1110. A joint FUA and FWUA meeting was held at which the delegate gave a most interesting report on the annual convention.

* * *

West Wind FWUA #1217, Pincher Creek, heard a report by their delegate on the annual convention. Seven members were presented with small gifts for perfect attendance in 1956.

The Associated Country Women Of the World

By Miss B. Hearnden

(Note: Miss Hearnden is a writer and accompanied Mrs. Berry, president of the A.C.W.W. to Ceylon and on to Australia.)

It was eleven o'clock on a hot December morning, and the annual general meeting was in session. A resolution was proposed, and seconded. Two or three members rose to speak to it. It was put to the vote and carried. The chairman, standing behind her microphone, passed on to the next item on the agenda. Beside me, at the back of the platform, the recording secretary took notes, and a light flashed as a press photographer took a photograph.

In some ways it was a very familiar scene, in others, not, because I didn't understand a syllable that was said and couldn't read a word of the secretary's beautiful curling script, and all the members were in silk and cotton saris of every colour of the rainbow. It was the annual meeting of the Lanka Mahila Samiti, held at their headquarters in Colombo, on December 17, 1956.

They told me afterwards that it was the biggest meeting they have ever had. They expected about 400 women; they got 600. Sitting on the floor, on either side of the platform, were the trainees from Kaduwela, the most enchanting little girls you ever saw, in spotless white saris. If I didn't know it wasn't so, I'd be tempted to believe that they pick their apprentice Sevikas for their looks. (The Sevikas, in case you've forgotten, are the village girls who are

Burnt Lake FWUA #1004, Red Deer, plan to help the FUA with a barbecue at Sylvan Lake. There will be a program, with Mr. Platt as guest speaker. By holding a joint meeting they were able to hear the report of the FUA convention by their delegates.

* * *

Aunger FWUA #1101, Fenn, arranged to send a CARE parcel away, and also for a donation to Salvation Army. Money raising projects were discussed; the most favorable being a home-cooking sale, to be held in the summer.

* * *

Utopia FWUA #1210, Twin Butte, report a very interesting and informative meeting in January. Reports on the annual convention were given and the topics of most interest were "Our Alberta Indians," "Cancer Report," "A.C.W.-W." "Education," "Succession Duties Act," and "Egg Marketing Board."

trained at Kaduwela in nutrition and health and childcare and handicrafts, and go back to their villages to pass on the information.

Mrs. de Mel, the president, gave her report, and I never saw any speaker get such intent, alert attention. It was an impressive report, too. Someone gave me an English translation, so I could follow it. The Lanka Mahila Samiti have now a membership of 75,000, in 1,038 centres. This year 98 new Samitis have been started and there are 70 on the waiting list. It would be impossible to overstate the value of this work to the country. The Samitis are bringing health and education to the most isolated parts of Ceylon, and are giving status and self confidence to the women.

The report on the result of the A.C.W.W. UNESCO coupon plan thrilled me as much as it did the members of L.M.S. Up to date 12,872 had been received, and another 800 odd was coming from Queensland, Australia. Twelve model centres have already been opened and are in operation, and some 25 are in course of construction. Many of them are being named after the A.C.W.W. Societies that equipped them. Obviously equipment has to be housed, but so much has come through A.C.W.W. that many more buildings are needed. Some have been put up by the Samitis themselves, some have been given on a long lease free of rent, some Samitis are getting financial assistance from Mahila Samiti headquarters. Asia Foundation has come to their help over this, with a generous grant towards the construction of buildings, and the Gal Oya Board, where the reconstruction of the ancient irrigation system is going on, has built a Model Centre in Ampari to serve the six Samitis already in existence in that district.

A charming woman from Gal Oya who is on the sub-committee dealing with the UNESCO coupon scheme told me how immensely touched they were by the letters that accompanied the coupons, especially the ones from little groups that had very few members and very little money and could only afford to send one or two units. She plans to write to them as soon as she can, and tell them how much their gifts mean to the Mahila Samiti.

It was a wonderful day and I enjoyed every minute of it. I shall never forget the faces of those women, some of whom had travelled 300 miles to attend the meeting. They were so alert, so interested, and every time one of them caught me looking at her, she gave me a radiant smile. A charming, courteous and public spirited group of women, who are doing a wonderful job for their country, for Asia, and for the world.

Handicraft List for the F.W.U.A. Convention 1957

Class 1: Sewing — 3 only —

- (a) Garment with smocking
- (b) Practical housedress
- (c) Child's garment remade from mused wool or similar material
- (d) Girl's best dress or ladies afternoon dress (size 12 or over) any material
- (e) Housecoat, kimono or duster coat
- (f) Pyjamas (6 years and over)
- (g) Sport shirt — short sleeves
- (h) Jacket, blazer or coat (16 yrs and under) lined or half lined
- (i) Ladies or girls winter skirt
- (j) Doll's wardrobe

Class 2: Knitting — 2 only —

- (a) Men's or boy's cardigan—light weight
- (b) Women's or girl's cardigan—light weight
- (c) Adult or child's Siwash sweater
- (d) Socks—plain color fancy stitch
- (e) Socks—any pattern, 2 or more colors
- (f) Shrug, fringed shawl or stole
- (g) Mitts—any age, any design
- (h) Child's dress or suit—2 to 5 years
- (i) Infants garments — 2 articles
- (j) Knitted lace — edging, doily or any article (fine thread No. 3# - 60)

Class 3: Crochet and Tatting — 2 only —

- (a) Dinner cloth 54" or more — all lace not coarser than size 20 thread
- (b) Crochet edging or trim
- (c) Tatted edge
- (c) Tatted article
- (e) Crochet purse or hat-straw or other thread
- (f) Crochet inserts on linen, not corners
- (g) Crochet edge on 2 handkerchiefs
- (h) Crochet doily or tray cloth, thread not coarser than 30

Class 4: Embroidery & Textile Painting 2 only

- (a) Embroidery in white
- (b) Embroidery in color
- (c) Embroidery in cutwork
- (d) Embroidery in cross stitch — not framed
- (e) Textile painting — any article using textile paint and brush

Class 5: Rug — 1 only —

- (a) Hooked rug — new material
- (b) Hooked rug — salvage material
- (c) Braided rug
- (d) Any other variety — new material
- (e) Any other variety — old material

Class 6: Loom Weaving — 1 only —

- (a) Small article e.g. bag, cushion cover, scarf or runner
- (b) Large article, e.g. bedspread, drapery, fabric length, rug, etc.

Class 7: Quilt — 1 only —

- (a) Quilt, patchwork — hand quilted
- (b) Quilt, appliqued — hand quilted
- (c) Cotton crib cover — hand quilted, washable type padding.

Class 8: Leathercraft & Copper Work—2 only

- (a) Leather purse—not tooled or carved
- (b) Tooled article
- (c) Carved article
- (d) Gloves
- (e) Copper tooled article—e.g. framed picture, planter, lamp stand, tray, etc.

Class 9: Flour or sugar sacks — 1 only (sacks could be dyed)

- (a) Child's garment
- (b) Apron
- (c) Any other useful article

Class 10: Needlepoint, Petitpoint—1 only —

- (a) Needlepoint — not mounted
- (b) Petitpoint — not mounted

Class 11: Painting — 1 only —

- (a) Framed, painted in oils
- (b) Framed, painted in water colors
- (c) Framed picture silk or wool, not needlepoint or petitpoint, could be cross stitch & outline stitch could be used

Class 12: Other Handiwork — 1 only —

- (a) Cushion cover
- (b) Stuffed toy
- (c) Basketry — any article
- (d) Machine embroidery — any article
- (e) Machine quilting — any article
- (f) Felt article
- (g) Lamp shade

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Any local may exhibit 6 articles or less from any of the 12 classes listed.
2. No prize winning exhibit from a previous FWUA Exhibit may be entered in 1957.
3. One only means that **only one article** may be exhibited from that whole class.
4. Points for large articles such as rugs, quilts, crochet table cloth and large woven articles will be 10 for first, 7 for second and 4 for third. Points for other articles 5, 3 and 1. A modified Danish system of judging will be used allowing the judge to award more than one article in a placing and/or award a higher

Before Buying a Home Freezer

"Will a home freezer reduce food costs?"—Is a frequent inquiry made of the Home Economics Extension Service, says Mrs. Vera MacDonald, Supervisor, Home Economics Extension Service.

A freezer, like a vacuum cleaner, is a convenience in the home. It can save time and make it easier to preserve foods. It may result in the family enjoying their vegetables and eating better and more nutritious meals. However, unless the owner grows or raises much of the food to be frozen, it is not likely a home freezer will save money on your food budget. Those who plan to save money by purchasing meat in the side or quarter, must be prepared to eat a large amount of the less choice cuts.

What to Consider Before Buying —

(1) Have you a suitable location for it? Can you get it through the door openings or the stairway?

(2) If the freezer is to be located in the kitchen, is the floor strong enough to hold such a concentrated weight?

(3) If to be stored in the basement, consider buying a less expensive type of home freezer cabinet with a Du Lux finish rather than the more expensive porcelain finish. This will enable you to buy a larger freezer for the same money.

(4) Purchase from a reliable firm which can provide adequate service for the appliance.

Having decided to purchase a home freezer, you will be asking these questions:

What Size Should it be?

The amount of space needed depends on or lower number of points according to quality of workmanship and design or article.

5. No fancy work is to be mounted on colored paper mounting may be sent for articles so that they can be mounted after they are judged.
6. No work is to be mounted unless specified—e.g. framed picture in which case the entry is judged for the final effect of framing and frame.
7. Paintings on Commercial Number Charts disqualified.
8. Tags will be sent to all FWUA locals in October — Joint locals please request tags, from central office at this time.

the kinds and quantities of foods to be frozen and stored. Authorities recommend six cubic feet of storage space per person for the average family. The trend is toward larger sizes, especially if home produce is to be frozen.

An Upright or Chest Model?

If to be located in the kitchen an upright model may be best, as it takes less floor space. The upright is generally easier to load and unload and if it is a model with coils under every shelf, it will have more quick freezing surface than the chest type which can be important when freezing a quantity of perishable food like meat. However, because of its more expensive construction, the upright is more expensive to purchase per cubic foot of storage and slightly more expensive to operate, since cold air tumbles out when the door is open. The chest type may be more suited to storing large quantities of bulky packages such as meat.

Construction Points to Consider:

Is the cabinet well insulated? The better the insulation, the less the operating cost. The average temperature inside the freezer should be no higher than 0° F. An air-tight seal (rubber or plastic gasket) is important to prevent passage of water vapor and heat into the freezer. Essential on the chest type model is a device to hold the lid open while food is being put in or taken out. Lids and doors must latch tightly and should be done with ease. Since the outside surface of the freezer usually sweats, it is necessary for the hardware to be rust resistant.

Special Features to Look For

An automatic alarm signal to give warning when the electricity goes off or when the freezer stops working, is a safety feature. An inside light may be desirable, particularly if the cabinet is to be in a poorly lighted place. Toe-space is a convenience in working at a chest type freezer. Some people prefer a separate fast freezing compartment. This prevents fluctuation of temperature in the main section and in the end, may result in a better quality product.

A new and up-to-date freezing bulletin — "Preserve by Freezing" will soon be available from your District Home Economist or from the Home Economics Extension Service, Department of Agriculture, Legislative Buildings, Edmonton.

Talks on Income Tax

by E. B. McKittrick

Since the inception of the Farmers' Union Accounting Service on January 1st, a great many inquiries have been made of us regarding two of the many phases of the work we are doing in this office. Most farmers still do not understand what a "net worth statement" is and why it is used so frequently by tax department officials. Secondly many people have inquired as to the exact implications involved in setting up an "Estate Plan."

What is a "Net Worth Statement"

A net worth is simply a statement of a man's financial position as at a given date. This means calculating out the book value after depreciation of all your buildings and equipment, adding the cost of your land, the amount of cash you had on hand or in the bank, and also adding any other investments or assets you might have. From this total figure is then deducted any liabilities that are owing against these capital assets. The resulting figure arrived at in this calculation is your actual net worth.

In practise income officials actually take two net worth statements at different times such as December 31, 1951, and December 31, 1956 and calculate the net worth at each date. They then are able to see the amount of taxable income that the farmer has reinvested during the period and calculate whether he could have actually accumulated this amount of investment from the net profits shown on his tax returns for the period involved. If the increase in net worth together with living costs shows a larger total for the period than was shown by the farmer himself on his income tax returns for the period his returns are reassessed and this excess is added resulting in additional tax, interest and sometimes penalties being levied.

The fallacy of this method of checking is mostly contained in one figure "living costs". Very few farmers keep an actual record of the amounts spent for food, clothing, entertainment, holiday expenses, etc. and this result usually is an arbitrary figure somewhere near the present cost of living index taking what little known facts are available into consideration. The resulting figure can quite easily be out either high or low by a considerable amount and results in penalizing some farmers while letting others off much too easily.

The net conclusion must then be for each farmer to keep his records completely up to date including living costs so that he may know beyond a shadow of doubt exactly where he

stands on his tax position at all times. This may seem like a tall order but it can be done if a farmer wants to protect himself against future reassessments.

To accomplish this protection, we in the Farmers' Union Accounting Service have set up a special "Net Worth Questionnaire" which gives us enough information year by year to compute reasonably accurately whether or not a client's net worth is in line with his statement of income and expenses. I am sure that by this method most of the headaches farmers face on net worth statements can be alleviated. We are here to help you if you want help in this regard and we would be very happy to look after it for any union or prospective union members. Drop into the office or write us a letter if you are faced with this problem.

Estate Planning

Every farmer and businessman today is faced with the problem of how to set up his business affairs so that if anything happens to him, his family will be able to carry on without having to sell part of the assets of the estate to settle income tax, succession duties and possibly gift tax.

Many farm widows and children are suffering today because the father did not make a will or failed to settle his income tax affairs accurately. The reason a will is so important is that if a man has minor children it is very likely that his estate would be tied up until all the children become of age. This may cause considerable hardship to the wife in either trying to run the farm or dispose of it equitably.

Gift tax regulations have also caused many headaches. Today the regulation states that a tax will be payable on any gift in excess of \$4,000.00 or one-half the difference between the taxpayer's previous year's taxable income and the tax imposed for that year to any one person in any one year. In addition gift tax will be imposed on any other gifts made in the same year if they exceed \$1000.00. Many farmers unaware of this provision have given their sons and or equipment as a gift and as a result have been subject to this tax that they very likely did not even know existed.

If you are faced with any of these problems let us know. We are here to help you and we can do so at a very nominal charge. Be sure and call on us.

In conclusion I would like to point out the importance to every farmer in business today of keeping his records in shape so that proper income tax returns can be filed easily and accurately. Remember the government has its hand in your pocket book — don't let them take more than is rightfully theirs.

CO-OP CORNER

By W. J. Harper

We had a letter this week from a farmer who wants help in organizing a local bulk plant for distributing farm fuels and oils, as well as other farm supplies.

There are two ways of doing this:

First, he can write to the U.F.A. Co-op at 125 - 11 Avenue East, Calgary. This Co-op handles fuel oil and farm supplies at the well-known Maple Leaf stations, which cover most of Alberta. Last year they distributed 27 million gallons of farm fuels.

Or, our friend can write to the Alberta Co-op Wholesale, which serves the Co-op Stores in Alberta. This organization also handles Maple Leaf oil and gas, and is also busy helping local groups to set up Co-op lumber yards, and Co-op stores. The lumber program is one which every co-operative group should take a look at. Co-op stores.

Either the A.C.W.A. or the U.F.A. will be pleased to send a representative out to help with a survey of local sales possibilities and to help the local group get started.

This matter is much more important than just setting up a local distribution point. Co-operatives in Alberta are handling enough farm fuels that they are looking ahead to the establishment of a Co-op Refinery. Farmers cannot possibly do an efficient job of controlling their fuel costs until they have their own Co-op Refinery. But volume must be assured before they can take a chance of investing the millions of dollars necessary.

We hope our friend gets his local Co-op bulk station operating, and we hope a lot more Alberta communities take similar action. The Co-op Refinery will then become a reality — perhaps sooner than we think.

Rally At Sylvan Lake

Six hundred and sixty-seven Farm Union people gathered at Sylvan Lake on the evening of February the 13th. The event was raised to celebrate another membership campaign in this district. Except for annual conventions it is doubtful if there have been many larger gatherings of Farm Union people anywhere in the province. There were 527 adults and 140 juniors.

Locals represented were Burnt Lake, Pine

Hill, Blindman Valley, Benalto, and Poplar Ridge.

Earl Grimson was chairman of the meeting and of the committee making the arrangements. His committee included Lew Herder and John Lindman of Burnt Lake, Wayne Gillette of Pine Hill, Archie Carlyle and Ben Reiswig of Blindman Valley, Bill Lund of Benalto, and Fred Straub of Poplar Ridge.

A program of local talent, under the Master of Ceremonies Bill Keith, began the evening's activities promptly at 8 o'clock. Those taking part included Patsy Johnson, the Johanson girls, the Murray family, Barbara Stickland, Maxine Moore, Wilson Durward, Edwin Ironsides, Betty and Louella Herder, Melvin, Kenny and Harvey Stickland, Jimmy Johnson, Eldon Anderson, Mrs. Martin and Lew Herder. There were skits, dances, songs, bag-pipes, accordians and harmonicas. The Bentley band was in attendance and gave many fine numbers during the evening.

Mr. A. W. Platt, president of the Farmers' Union of Alberta, spoke to the meeting on Farm Union policy to obtain parity for agriculture.

Then came the supper. Mrs. Ada Hagerman and her committee did a magnificent job in providing the evening meal. Thick slices of hot barbecued beef, in sandwiches of homemade bread with cake and coffee that would float a steer, were served up for all. In just 40 minutes all 667 people were served and over 300 pounds of beef had disappeared.

This group of locals plan to make this an annual affair. Burnt Lake Local took the lead in organizing the event this year and it is expected that another of the group will take the lead next year.

SASKATCHEWAN GOES ALONG

At our convention we decided to send a representative from each District to Ottawa at the time that our Brief was presented. We immediately notified the other provinces of our intention and suggested that they do the same. We now have word from Saskatchewan that they are going along. They are now busy raising the money and expect to have one farmer from each of their districts accompany the delegation. This should strengthen our representation considerably and is a good illustration of the close co-operation between these two provinces. We are still hoping that Manitoba and Ontario will see their way clear to send a good-sized delegation as well.

Open Forum

Letters for publication from members and subscribers only in The Open Forum must be brief. Pen names may be used if desired, but the pen name of the sender must accompany the letter. A recent Board of Directors' ruling limits letters to 300 words and those longer cannot be accepted. Readers are asked to observe this change. The F.U.A. does not endorse or accept any responsibility for opinions expressed under this heading.

Dear Editor:

F.U.A. versus A.F.A.

Why should there be any conflict between F.U.A. convention opinion and A. F.A. convention opinion, when so many of the personnel of both conventions are in both organizations?

The answer is that the conflict seems to have lost its bitterness and evolved into an interesting debate.

The recent F.U.A. convention asked for equal representation with the A.F.A. on the board of directors of the A.F.A. A report was endorsed at the A.F.A. convention asking for that very thing. There will, necessarily however, continue to be differences of opinion between the bodies, because of a difference of viewpoint. The mountains near the B. C. coast look different on the east to what they do on the west side. Even so the mountains of agricultural difficulty look different from the standpoint of the grower of wheat, oats and barley who can only collect 300 dollars in the fall to pay all his farm expenses and live. The same mountains look different to the directors and managers of the Co-op business organizations, practically everyone which is eminently successful. If the F.U.A. and the A. F. A. can continue to work together they can be a valuable team working out solutions for agricultural welfare.

Solutions when agreed upon by leading agriculturists must be popularized with the majority — when the majority agree the most backward Government must act or lose out. But to gain the support of the majority, even for a good project, requires publicity. Publicity costs money. It is the A.F.A. that has the money. Nuff sed.

A delegate to F.U.A. and A.F.A. conventions

EDITOR'S NOTE:— The F.U.A. convention asked for equal representation with the A.F.A. on the Western Conference and not the Board of Directors of the A.F.A.

Dear Editor:

Your Editorial on politics is interesting, but I have seen that our young voters take your statement as meaning that the individual nominee, who supports our program, can be instrumental in putting it through parliament.

We know any representative will support any policy that is good for the industries of his or her constituency. Therefore, I believe it is our duty to present our program to the delegates of the National Convention and voters of Canada in all political parties, for a representative will vote for his party principles.

What I cannot understand is why Parliament recognizes several political parties in place of two as our form of government demands. The party in power was elected by 48% of the voters. That leaves 52% in opposition. We are governed by the minority.

respectfully,

Paul R. C. White

Dear Editor:

Your editorial on politics, December issue, prompts some comment. Shouldn't it be all too obvious to everyone that the time to establish a "political" education brand of the Union is long overdue? Call it economics if you prefer.

Isn't it time that the Union adopt the slogan "Learn to vote for what you want"? If the farmers could learn to do that they could soon elect a favorable government. Remember, you can't **compel** and unwilling dog to bring home your cows; neither will an unwilling government give you anything but evasions and half measures. Neither will the election day "best promiser" do any better; he always votes with the "party" until it's time for more promises, regardless of how nicely he talks. Only those groups whose platform has consistently coincided with Union demands can be expected to get results.

If there were an election today, the vast majority of the farmers — from past experience — would vote for a candidate whom they know does not support their needs; then tomorrow they will spend endless amounts of time and thousands of dollars organizing to **compel** that government to do, what today they elected them not to do! Certainly it must require a most queer stretch of imagination to call that good sense. Too many of the Union's achievements are purely negative for that very reason. Figuratively setting up straw men today, so they can be knocked down tomorrow, at great expense and suffering. There's no "magic" even in one hundred

percent Union. The basic laws of economics still apply. Stubbornly clinging to old prejudices only increases the evil.

Remember that Parity and Profit cannot grow on the same tree.

Lars Peterson, Holden, Alberta

U.S.D.A. DISCONTINUES PORK PURCHASES FOR TIME BEING

The USDA reports that the strengthening of hog prices has permitted suspension of buying operations for support purposes. Since early November when first purchases were made, 4,989,600 lbs. of canned pork luncheon meat and 1,584,000 lbs. of canned ham, for an overall total of 6,573,600 lbs. of canned pork products have been purchased. No canned pork and gravy purchases have been made and USDA has now discontinued receiving offers on this product also.

—"Spot News from Abroad"

U.S. CORN REFERENDUM SUPPORTS ACREAGE ALLOTMENT

In a referendum on December 11 U.S. corn producers supported a program for 1957 which includes an acreage allotment of 37.3 million acres and price support in the commercial counties at a national average of \$1.36 a bushel. Under the program rejected, a base acreage of 51 million acres would have been provided for, with the price support at \$1.31 a bushel. Though a majority voted for the latter program, the margin was slightly short of the two-thirds vote required for approval.

—"Spot News from Abroad"

SECOND SURVEY CONFIRMS NEAR-RECORD WORLD BREAD-GRAIN PRODUCTION

Early season forecasts of a near-record world bread-grain crop in 1956 are confirmed by recent reports received in the U.S. Foreign Agricultural Service. Current information indicates that the combined crop of wheat and rye will total about 265 million short tons, second only to the 1952 record of 274 million tons. The estimated world wheat crop is only nominally below the production of that record year, but rye production is estimated to be about 20 per cent below the 1952 total.

Revisions in estimates since the first forecast bring the world wheat production to 7,545 million bushels, a net increase of 35 million bushels

Parity on the Farm

Did anyone ever stop to really consider:
Supposing, if or when (and tell us — how?)
Parity was introduced "down" on the farm
That it could start and awful row,
And upset the old, established order
Between the farmer, his chicken, pig and cow?

Take gentle, old "Biddy" for instance
Used to the farmer's nagging and bossing
She might eventually turn a deaf ear to
Everybody's grumbling and cussing
And deliver her eggs at parity
Not at "two bits", but one "buck" per dozen.

The "Mother Porker" could rightfully claim
That large families are not "the thing" anymore
So instead of the average eight or nine
She would settle for no more than four.
Pork and bacon would then be awful high
And beans be canned minus the chunk of "old
boar".

Old "Bossie" insisting on a forty-hour week
With fringe benefits and old-age pension
Would refuse to give down the milk
On week-ends, and don't forget to mention
With a storage of milk for the baby,
Parents would sure be paying attention.

Now the Hound will also insist on his rights,
Half day off and no work Sundays or after dark.
If there is any disturbance on "Rover's" time off
The farmer must supply his own bark.
So life for the farmer himself under parity
May turn out to be anything but a "lark".

It has been said that the farmer is not a
"worker"
But that he, as a "capitalist" should be classed,
Consequently his rights to parity,
Should be considered as "a thing of the past."
The truth is: he is doing more work than ever,
And his "capital" is sure disappearing fast.

— Ivan Nielsen

over the first forecast. This 140 million bushels above the large outturn last year. The considerably expanded wheat production in the Soviet Union is the most important factor in the increase this year. The Soviet increase more than offset a sharp reduction in Europe. World rye production this year is placed at 1,360 million bushels, about 90 million bushels less than in 1955. This would be the smallest rye crop of the past 10 years.

—"Spot News from Abroad"

MARCH of TIME

Member

No.

1



1923

1957



GUS AAKERSTROM
Camrose

Member 100,000



ARTHUR PROWD
Woking

DURING THE PAST 34 YEARS 100,000 ALBERTA FARMERS HAVE BUILT 533 COUNTRY ELEVATORS, 558 ANNEXES AND 2 TERMINALS WITH A TOTAL STORAGE CAPACITY OF 50,000,000 BUSHELS. THEY OWN AND CONTROL THEIR ENTIRE SYSTEM. OVER THE YEARS THEY HAVE MARKETING 1,262,000,000 BUSHELS OF GRAIN THROUGH THEIR OWN FACILITIES AND SAVED FOR THEMSELVES \$51,000,000.

OF ALL THE MEN WHO HAVE JOINED THE ORGANIZATION SINCE IT WAS FORMED 51,000 HAVE DIED OR RETIRED.

Their equity has been purchased by the
Remaining 49,000 Active Members
of the

ALBERTA WHEAT POOL